



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds
National Monument

PO Box 1240
Tulelake, CA 96134

Mike Reynolds
Superintendent
530-667-8101
mike_reynolds@nps.gov

Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2014

Spring Like Weather Attracts Visitors to Lava Beds

TULELAKE, California— Winter is a great time to visit Lava Beds. “With a winter that feels like a late spring, many folks have changed their traditional recreation patterns,” says Superintendent Mike Reynolds at Lava Beds National Monument. Reynolds went on to say, “Lava Beds is experiencing higher numbers of visitors this winter. Visitors from outside the Klamath Basin who normally do not travel to the park due to weather fears in the winter, are making the trip due to clear roads and warmer weather.” The long Martin Luther King, Jr holiday weekend saw almost 400 visitors, the busiest in twenty years.

This time of year with the lava tube caves feel warmer than the outside air, and visitors will have a completely different wildlife viewing experience than during the summer season. Bald eagles, mule deer and gray fox have been seen in the park just this week! Basin residents are also reminded that Lava Beds sits above the frequent winter inversions. Winter visibility is tremendous even when lower elevations are socked in with fog. Without the traditional winter storms and snowfall, the monument offers many unique features to explore. Despite the beautiful weather, park staff are concerned about the lack of a snow pack, as it will likely negatively impact the ecosystem and increase wildfires in the summer months.

Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8113, email labe_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/labe. Also, visit the park's Facebook and Twitter pages.

-NPS-